

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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R 201913Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0462
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BONN 13335

EXDIS

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, BQG, EEC
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AT QUADRIpartite AMBASSADORIAL
LUNCH, JULY 20

SUMMARY. AT JULY 20 QUADRIpartite LUNCH, WHICH I
HOSTED, THERE WAS MUCH DISCUSSION OF PRESIDENT'S VISIT,
PARTICULARLY HIS ADEPT HANDLING OF QUESTIONS RELATING
TO BERLIN AND GDR AT TOWN MEETING IN BERLIN. VAN WELL
EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR PROMPT ALLIED COORDINATION
AND ACTION CONCERNING SLOW-UPS IN TRAFFIC ON AUTOBAHN
AT TIME OF PRESIDENT'S VISIT. THERE WAS DISCUSSION OF
REASONS BEHIND GDR DECISION TO DELAY TRAFFIC, WITH SOME
SPECULATION THAT SUCH ACTION HAD BEEN COORDINATED BY GDR
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WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV WITHOUT REFERENCE TO
MOSCOW. VAN WELL REVIEWED CURRENT STATUS OF CONTACTS
WITH GDR, STRIKING OPTIMISTIC NOTE REGARDING PROSPECTS
FOR CARRYING NEGOTIATIONS FORWARD. HE EXPRESSED INTEREST
IN OBTAINING ALLIED MANDATE FOR NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING
NEW AUTOBAHN, WHICH WILL FOLLOW NORTHERN ROUTE THROUGH
GDR, TO ENSURE THAT IT WILL BE CONSIDERED AS TRANSIT

ROUTE UNDER TRANSIT AGREEMENT AND QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, FRENCH EXPRESSED VIEW IT MIGHT BE PREFERABLE TO REFRAIN FROM GIVING DIRECT MANDATE. VAN WELL HOPED SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN WEST BERLIN WOULD GO SMOOTHLY IN AUGUST. HE CONFIRMED THAT OFF-DUTY POLICE FROM WEST GERMANY WOULD BE UTILIZED FOR CROWD CONTROL DURING CHAMPIONSHIPS. END SUMMARY.

1. THERE WAS GENERAL DISCUSSION OF PRESIDENT'S VISIT, WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO BERLIN PORTION AND APPEARANCE IN TOWN MEETING. ALL PRAISED PRESIDENT'S ADEPT HANDLING OF COMPLICATED QUESTIONS CONCERNING BERLIN, GDR, ETC. VAN WELL NOTED THAT, TO DATE, THERE HAS BEEN ABSENCE OF CLEAR REACTION FROM GDR AND SOVIET UNION TO PRESIDENT'S REMARKS. HE MENTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT SOVIET DCM IN BONN, IN PASSING REFERENCE TO PRESIDENT'S REMARKS DURING VISIT TO FOREIGN OFFICE, HAD SAID THEY SEEMED TO BE HARD ON GDR AND THAT GDR AUTHORITIES MIGHT WELL BE DISCOURAGED BECAUSE OF THEM AND FEEL THEY WOULD HAVE TO START FROM SCRATCH IN BUILDING RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S.

2. VAN WELL THANKED ALLIES FOR PROMPT ACTION IN COORDINATING STATEMENT CONCERNING GDR DELAYS OF TRAFFIC ON AUTOBAHN JULY 15. BRITISH AMBASSADOR AGREED WITH ACTIONS TAKEN, ALTHOUGH HE STRESSED THAT PUBLICATION OF CONFIDENTIAL

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ALLIED DEMARCHE ON THIS OCCASION SHOULD BE SEEN AS EXCEPTION TO GENERAL RULE AND SHOULD NOT BE PRECEDENT FOR FUTURE. ALL EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH DESIRABILITY IN GENERAL OF MAINTAINING CONFIDENTIALITY OF EXCHANGES WITH SOVIETS.

3. GROUP SPECULATED ON REASONS FOR GDR ACTION IN INSTITUTING DELAYS ON AUTOBAHN. THERE WAS CONSENSUS THAT THIS ACTION HAD BEEN HARMFUL TO GDR INTERESTS AND HAD ONLY SERVED TO CALL ATTENTION TO THEIR RESTRICTIVE POLICIES. VAN WELL SPECULATED THAT GDR MAY HAVE COORDINATED ACTION ONLY WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV AND THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN CLEARED WITH MOSCOW.

4. VAN WELL REVIEWED STATUS OF INNER-GERMAN NEGOTIATIONS FOLLOWING DECISIONS TAKEN BY FRG AUTHORITIES JULY 11. HE MADE GENERAL COMMENT THAT GDR APPEARS MORE ANXIOUS THAN EVER TO OBTAIN HARD CURRENCY, AND SAID THIS SEEMS TO BE PRIMARY MOTIVATION FOR GDR IN VARIOUS PROJECTS UNDER DISCUSSION. HE THOUGHT GDR ATTITUDE MIGHT REFLECT INCREASING DIFFICULTIES BY GDR

IN MEETING SOVIET DEMANDS FOR SHIPMENTS TO USSR, AS

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WELL AS INCREASED PRICES FOR SOVIET DELIVERIES OF OIL
AND OTHER MATERIALS.

5. VAN WELL CONFIRMED THAT DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN TO
BUILD BERLIN/HAMBURG AUTOBAHN ALONG "NORTH ROUTE".
THE INTENTION IS TO BUILD A SPUR FROM THE NEW AUTOBAHN
TO LOWER SAXONY, BUT NEGOTIATIONS FOR THIS SPUR PROBABLY
WILL NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL 1980. OUTLET POINT FOR SPUR
REMAINS UNDECIDED, SINCE THIS IS TIED IN WITH
DEMARCATON QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO ELBE RIVER.
VAN WELL SAID GDR WISHES TO CHARGE 2 BILLION DM FOR
NEW AUTOROUTE, WHICH APPEARS VASTLY INFLATED. FRG
FEELS COST OF 1 BILLION DM WOULD BE REASONABLE; FURTHER
NEGOTIATIONS ON COST ARE FORESEEN. THE GDR HAS REFUSED
TO ACCEPT FRG CONSTRUCTION CREWS FOR WORK ON AUTOBAHN,
ALTHOUGH IT WILL BUY CERTAIN AMOUNT OF CONSTRUCTION
EQUIPMENT.

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6. ON NON-COMMERCIAL PAYMENTS, VAN WELL SAID GAUS WILL NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT INVOLVING A LIMITED AMOUNT OF FUNDS, PROBABLY ABOUT 50 MILLION DM. GAUS ALSO HAS A MANDATE TO REACH AGREEMENT FOR A NEW TRANSIT LUMP-SUM PAYMENT. THERE IS A DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE FRG AND THE GDR CONCERNING FIGURES RELATING TO TRUCK AND CARGO TRAFFIC ON AUTOBAHN, WITH FRG FIGURES INDICATING LOWER LEVELS OF TRAFFIC THAN ANTICIPATED. VAN WELL SAID FRG RECENTLY MADE LUMP-SUM PAYMENT OF 400 MILLION DM BUT PLACED RESERVE ON 40 MILLION DM OF THIS AMOUNT PENDING RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES REGARDING FIGURES.

7. VAN WELL SAID THAT, WITH REGARD TO REPAIR OF WATERWAYS, THE GDR IS REQUESTING THAT FRG PAY FOR REPAIR OF GDR PORTIONS OF ALL INNER-GERMAN WATERWAYS BECAUSE OF USE BY FRG OF LARGER SHIPS AND MOTORS. GDR ALSO WANTS CONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGE IN ONE PORTION WHICH WOULD TRANSPORT BARGES. TOTAL AMOUNT OF ALL CONSTRUCTION REQUESTED BY GDR WOULD BE 1 BILLION DM. FRG WILL OFFER TO REPAIR ONLY THOSE PORTIONS OF WATERWAYS WHICH ARE IN THE WORST CONDITION AND WILL REVIEW ADDITIONAL REPAIR WORK IN MID-80'S.

8. VAN WELL CONFIRMED THAT GAUS WILL NEGOTIATE A "SMALL SOLUTION" TO THE CONSTRUCTION AT THE WARTHA-HERLESHAUSEN CHECKPOINT. A LARGER, MUCH MORE EXPENSIVE PROJECT (THE "GREAT SOLUTION") MAY BE ADDRESSED LATER DEPENDING ON COURSE OF INNER-GERMAN NEGOTIATIONS AS A WHOLE. VAN WELL SAID IMPROVEMENT AT WARTHA-HERLESHAUSEN SHOULD ALLEVIATE TRAFFIC AT HELMSTEDT CHECKPOINT.

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9. WITH REGARD TO TELTOW CANAL, VAN WELL SAID ALLIES SHOULD BEGIN THINKING NOW ABOUT EXTENDING THEIR MANDATE SO THAT GAUS CAN PROCEED FROM "TAKING SOUNDINGS" TO ACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING CANAL. HE THOUGHT CONCRETE NEGOTIATIONS COULD BEGIN IN THE FALL.

10. VAN WELL STATED THAT HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS INVOLVING INCREASED TRAVEL FROM AND TO GDR AND LOWER AGE OF PERSONS PERMITTED TO LEAVE GDR WERE STILL ON THE TABLE AND A PART OF THE OVERALL NEGOTIATING PACKAGE. GDR HAS INDICATED ITS DESIRE TO KEEP TALKS ON THIS

SUBJECT RESTRICTED TO A VERY SMALL GROUP, AT LEAST INITIALLY, BUT FRG FEELS DISCUSSION WILL HAVE TO EXPAND IN DUE COURSE TO LARGER GROUP.

11. VAN WELL DOUBTED IF GDR WAS PREPARED TO MOVE ON HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS IN NEAR FUTURE. LACKING SUCH PROGRESS, MEETING BETWEEN SCHMIDT AND HONECKER IS NOT EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE. IN GENERAL, GDR INTEREST IN SUCH A MEETING SEEMS TO HAVE FALLEN OFF RECENTLY.

12. IN CONNECTION WITH NEGOTIATIONS FOR NEW AUTOBAHN FROM BERLIN TO HAMBURG, VAN WELL RECALLED DISCUSSIONS IN BONN GROUP WHERE FRG HAD NOTED DESIRABILITY OF HAVING ALLIES GIVE MANDATE FOR THESE NEGOTIATIONS AS WELL AS PROVIDE NOTIFICATION TO SOVIETS OF THEIR APPROVAL AND CONFIRMING THAT THEY CONSIDER NEW ROUTE A TRANSIT ROUTE. VAN WELL SAID IT HAD APPEARED FROM DISCUSSION IN BONN GROUP THAT ALLIES WERE RELUCTANT TO GIVE SPECIFIC MANDATE FOR NEW ROUTE, SINCE THEY FELT IT SHOULD GO WITHOUT SAYING THAT ROUTE WAS INDEED TRANSIT ROUTE AND THAT NO SPECIFIC ACTION WAS NECESSARY TO

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CONFIRM THIS. FRENCH AMBASSADOR CONFIRMED THAT THIS WAS FRENCH VIEW.

13. CONTINUING, VAN WELL SAID FRG WISHED TO BE SURE THAT ALLIES RETAINED RIGHT TO INTERVENE IN CONNECTION WITH ANY PROBLEMS WHICH MIGHT ARISE ALONG NEW ROUTE AND THAT ROUTE WOULD COME NOT ONLY UNDER FRG-GDR TRANSIT AGREEMENT BUT ALSO UNDER QUADRIpartite AGREEMENT. IF ALLIES DID NOT WISH TO GIVE SPECIFIC MANDATE, THEN PROCEDURE MIGHT BE WORKED OUT UNDER WHICH FRG WOULD ADVISE ALLIES OF INTENTION TO CONSTRUCT NEW ROUTE AND ALLIES COULD "TAKE NOTE" OF THIS NOTIFICATION. VAN WELL ACKNOWLEDGED FRG MAY BE GUILTY OF "LEGAL PERFECTIONISM" BUT HE STRESSED AGAIN DESIRE TO MAKE CLEAR THAT NEW ROUTE WILL BE SEEN AS TRANSIT ROUTE UNDER QUADRIpartite AGREEMENT. HE SAID THIS WOULD BE OF GREAT ASSISTANCE IN DEALING WITH INEVITABLE QUESTIONS
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IN BUNDESTAG. SO FAR AS NOTIFYING SOVIET UNION, VAN WELL SAID THIS WAS PROBLEM FOR ALLIES TO RESOLVE.

14. ON SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN BERLIN IN AUGUST, VAN WELL SAID PREPARATIONS SEEM TO BE GOING WELL AND HE HOPED MAJOR INTERNATIONAL EVENT INVOLVING EAST AND WEST WOULD GO SMOOTHLY. HE SAID THAT PROBLEM OF WHICH FLAGS WOULD FLY HAS BEEN RESOLVED SATISFACTORILY: ONLY FLAGS WILL BE THAT OF FRG, HOST COUNTRIES FOR LAST MEET AND FOR NEXT MEET AND FLAG OF INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING ORGANIZATION. VAN WELL CONFIRMED THAT AFTER THOROUGH CONSIDERATION WITHIN FRG GOVERNMENT AND FOLLOWING FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH BERLIN SENAT, IT HAD BEEN DECIDED THAT OFF-DUTY WEST GERMAN POLICE IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES WOULD BE EMPLOYED BY SWIMMING ASSOCIATION TO MAINTAIN ORDER DURING MEET.
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Message Attributes

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